



SEP 02 2009

Boulevard Planning Group
MINUTES/SUMMARY, July 2, 2009

Boulevard Community Center, 39919 Highway 94/Ribbonwood

San Diego County
DEPT. OF PLANNING & LAND USE

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM. **Members present:** Cheryl Lenz, Jeffrey McKernan, Chris Noland, Bill Parsons, Pat Stuart, and Donna Tisdale (Chair). **Absent:** Darlene Koczka (excused).

1) **MINUTES:** M/S Noland/McKernan to accept the May 28th, 2009 minutes with one amendment "wind turbine height is restricted to 80 feet". Passed: 4-0-2.

2) **CORRESPONDENCE:** Tisdale gave a report on the June 23rd Board of Supervisors meeting where they voted (with Supervisor Roberts absent) to oppose the SDGE shut-off plan. Chairwoman Dianne Jacob went to Sacramento to talk to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

3) **NEW BUSINESS:**

A) 160 MW INDUSTRIAL WIND TURBINE PROJECT ANNOUNCED FOR CAMPO

TRIBAL LANDS: On June 11 in the Union-Tribune, it was reported that SDGE, Campo and Invenergy Wind have reached a Memorandum of Understanding(MOU) for a 160 MW industrial wind turbine project. Just prior to this, Chair Tisdale had contacted the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and they did not have any information on it yet, they said there was talk about it but nothing in writing. Recent conversation with a Campo Tribal representative at a local social event indicated that there are a lot more negotiations that need to take place. A recent email from Don Parent from SDGE had the same information. There are no details although previous maps show wind turbines on ridges throughout the Reservation (North, South, East, and West). Locations of MET towers have not been determined. Tisdale requested approval for the Chair and Vice-Chair to meet informally with Campo Tribal Chair La Chappa and Vice-Chair Cuero. Planner Stuart requested that she be included in this meeting.

M/S McKernan/ Parsons that we send the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Planner Stuart to attend a meeting with the Campo Tribal representatives to raise our concerns and to share our position on this proposed project. Passed: 6-0-0

4. **OLD BUSINESS:**

A) SEMPRA'S PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT APPLICATION FOR 500 KV/230 KV CROSS-BORDER LINE AT JACUMBA:

Tisdale reported that there is now a Major Use Permit (MUP) with the County for this ¾ mile section of transmission line which is not being proposed in a vacuum. It will connect with industrial wind on the Mexican side and with SDGE's proposed ECO substation in Jacumba. The Chair said that the application indicates that there is no comment deadline at this point.

Alberto Abreu, Sempra Generation Director of the Energia Sierra Juarez Wind Project (ESJ) in Mexico introduced Lisa Briggs (Regional Director, National Government Affairs) and Hanan Elsenman (Public Relations Manager) from Sempra Energy. The ESJ wind project will generate electricity exclusively through the use of emission free wind energy and is a key part of our renewable energy strategy. The project is going to be built in phases and all of the turbines will be located along the Sierra Juarez mountain range in Mexico. There will be no turbines in the U.S. associated with this project. The first phase will be the closest to the United States. That first phase is going to generate about 100-125 megawatts. It will have 45 to 55 wind turbine sites. Subsequent phases will be located much further south, and it is anticipated that there will be a total generating capacity for the whole project of about 1,000 MW. Planner Parsons asked if the 1000 MW is the capacity or is it what will actually be generated. He said that his understanding is that what is actually generated is usually about

1/3 of the capacity. Abreu said that there will be times that it will generate 1000 megawatts. But power is generated about 30 or 33% of the time. Tisdale asked what the proposed time span is between phase one, phase two, and phase three. Abreu said about a year apart. The project is about 5 ½ miles from Jacumba and 11 miles from Boulevard to the closest wind turbine on site. The first point of inter-connection in Mexico is a little bit over 1 mile south of the international border, and from the international border, it is about ¾ of a mile to connect into the Southwest Powerlink. The Generation tie line is going to consist of 3 to 5 steel lattice towers. SDGE has indicated that they are going to build the Eco Sub approximately 4 miles east of Jacumba and that is where the ESJ Generation tie line will terminate and connect into the Southwest Powerlink. In terms of impacts, on the US side, they are seeking a MUP from the County for the construction of the 3 – 5 lattice towers. These towers hold electric wire and the insulators that are running in the energy from Mexico. The principal permits in Mexico are the environmental and the energy regulatory commission. In the US, the main permits are the Presidential Permit from the Department of Energy (DOE) and the MUP from the County of San Diego. At this point the DOE expects completing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in September or October. At which time it will be made available to the public for public comment. They anticipate finalizing the DEIS by the end of the year. The DOE has put up a website that they solely maintain with information that they put out. It is www.esjprojecteis.org.

Abreu said that they submitted the MUP on June 10th and a copy was provided to Chair Tisdale. Planner McKernan asked if this project needs the Sunrise Powerlink, or can the power all the way up to the 1000 MW go into the Southwest Powerlink? **Abreu responded that you can't do it without Sunrise.** The California Independent System Operator (CISO), the entity that operates the system independent from the utilities, has a "special protection scheme". It's a rule to protect the electric system from certain events from occurring. One of the things that they do is that they limit the amount of power that can be tripped off line at any given time on any given line to 1150 MW. Right now, the Southwest Powerlink has 1050 MW. So there's 80 MW of freeboard there before you reach that 1150 threshold. What that basically means in practice is that if you go over more than 80 MW you exceed that special protection scheme and what the CISO does is that they start shedding power plants because they don't want one of the 1150 watts to be inconsistent. In order to alleviate that, there has to be improvements into the electric grid to allow that power to flow in other directions. If Sunrise had not been approved there would have had to be other types of improvements in order to allow that to happen. Now that Sunrise has been approved it will provide those other benefits throughout that 1150 threshold. And for people to be able to inject more than 1150 into that line because there is a redundancy there if the Sunrise Powerlink goes down, there's another way to cover that flow. McKernan asked if that is why they are only doing the 40-45 turbines in the first phase – because that is all that the Southwest will handle? Abreu said that they planning on generating between 100-125mw in the first phase. The first phase number is limited solely by the number of turbines they believe can put there economically. The number of 45-55 turbines is based on the wind capacity, the ability to construct, and the economic development. McKernan stated that that would exceed the capacity of the Southwest Powerlink – just the first phase. Abreu said that if Sunrise or some improvements are not made, then they would not build the project. If improvements are not made to the electric grid, we would not build the project. The project is physically connected into the Southwest Powerlink. Tisdale responded that it needs Sunrise in order to move forward, so it's a connected action. Abreu said that Sunrise provides benefits to the system that allow the power to float. They have leased 5300 hectares which is about 10,000 acres for the project. The property is private property. The investors of Sempra pay for the construction of this project and they are the ones that will get the returns. The lease is for 30 years and can be extended for another 30 years. He said that they are not receiving any subsidies or tax breaks on this project. Abreu said that renewable energy is more expensive than fossil fuel energy. Diane Ang asked about the blades spinning off of wind turbines and creating fires. La Rumorosa area does not have the equipment to put out fires. What has

Sempre done to minimize a disaster of some kind? Abreu said they are developing a fire prevention plan as part of the permit process. McKernan referred to the statement that this project will not reflect on our energy bills – he knows that Sempra shareholders will expect a return for their money, so when SDGE has to buy the power, which is more expensive for the wind power, from their parent company who put in the wind turbines, well it is going to show up on our bills. So we are going to pay for this project in the long run. Abreu said that they don't have a contract to sell to SDGE but they do have a contract with Southern California Edison to sell power. Abreu said that they have no plans on building anything other than wind projects in this area of Mexico. The permits will be conditioned to say only wind power can be brought in through the Presidential permit. Planner Lenz asked if their contract requires the turbines be removed at the end of the contract. Abreu responded that the Mexican environmental agency requires them to dismantle the equipment. They would take the wind turbines and foundations down two meters deep from the surrounding terrain and cover it up; returning it to its natural state. Planner Noland asked if they knew where the wind generators are coming from. Abreu stated that they are looking at General Electric, Clipper, and Westinghouse. Noland asked what the route would be used to get to the site. Abreu responded that there are basically three options. If they come from Asia, then they could come into the port of Ensenada and then hauled. If they come into the port of San Diego they would be routed through Otay Mesa crossing and if they are coming from Europe or the US, more likely they would come in from the east into a city on the Mexican side. Noland asked if these are going to have lights on the top. Abreu said the guidelines are the same for Mexico as our FAA – about 30% of them will be lit for the wind turbines.

No action was taken on this item.

B) GENERAL PLAN UPDATE EIR & COMMUNITY PLANS: The Draft General Plan is out for public review and there is also an information page in the information packet that has links of interest. Documents will be online at www.sdcountry.ca.agov/dplu/gpupdate. Comment deadline is August 31st. The Draft Boulevard Community Plan is listed also. This will be an action item at our August meeting. CD's of the Draft were distributed.

C) SUNRISE POWERLINK/BLM AND OTHER ISSUES: Opposition groups including Back Country Against Dumps (BAD), East County Community Action Coalition and The Protect Our Communities Foundation have filed an appeal with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that cost about \$40-50 thousand per month. They are also challenging the Forest because they have not yet approved the Sunrise Powerlink route through there, and there are a lot of reasons why they shouldn't. The attorney for the opposition groups will be submitting a letter to the Forest supervisor. A week or so after that, the official federal lawsuit against the Sunrise Powerlink will be filed. SDGE has been attempting to bury the opposition's attorney with paperwork in response to Interior Board of Land Appeals.

D) IBERDROLA RENEWABLES \$400 MILLION TULE WIND PROJECT PROPOSED FOR MCCAIN VALLEY: No new information other than Iberdrola has received approval for three more Tule Wind MET towers from BLM. This was against our objections.

E) SDGE ECO SUBSTATION AND NEW TRANSMISSION LINE FOR WIND

GENERATION ROJECTS: SDGE attended one of the Planning Group's meetings unannounced and during the public comment segment of the meeting they announced that the Campo Wind project was just speculative. But now they have signed an MOU to participate in it. Because of that, they will have to upgrade the power line that comes from the Campo Reservation through Boulevard, by Clover Flat, through the residential area to the Boulevard substation by Tule Jim Road. It's going to be upgraded from a 69 kv line to a 138 kv. They are talking about changing the poles from wooden to

steel and they will be 10 feet taller. SDGE has to file an application before the PUC for the new 65-85 acre substation by Jacumba, 14 miles of new transmission lines to Boulevard.

F) PROPOSED CAMPO LANDFILL: Supplemental EIS is projected for release for public comment in late July or August.

G) LANSING AND HAMANN COMPANIES: There is new construction in the Rough Acres Ranch area –large concrete slabs. There has been a constant line of concrete trucks and a hard-hat working force of approx. 20 people.

H) INVENERGY WIND: They have applied for a MET tower on private property on Tierra Del Sol road. Chair Tisdale has contacted the County for an update and was informed that this application has been put on hold.

I) MULTIPLE SPECIES CONSERVATION PLAN: No new information on this.

J) REVITALIZATION UPDATE: The Ad Hoc Revitalization committee (Tammy Daubach and Planner Lenz) reported that they have approached the local elementary school, Clover Flat, to invite them to participate in the Revitalization process with a partnership for a park with the community. The school has the existing resources for a community park -- only lacking an updated little league field and picnic tables and bbq's. The principal was very receptive and said that they are already looking to expanding one of the little league fields with grass. We will be meeting with the Superintendent of Schools for Mt. Empire next week. Daubach had several "blueprint" sheets of designs for the proposal of: a new fire station/refurbishing of the current fire station/ expansion of the current fire station/a new 18-acre county park on Ribbonwood/a community mini-park of approx. 1-acre behind the current fire station/a new community center. We are looking into the current septic system, the water issue, and safety. We have discovered that Parolees have been conducting their supervised urine tests in the community center bathrooms and have caused damage to the wall fixtures. California Corrections has been contacted to stop this. It was originally set up that these tests would be conducted in the Sheriff's substation here in Boulevard. However, they decided to use the restrooms in the Community Center. They didn't realize that this was the fire fighters only bathroom. The Revitalization team has been able to get this stopped. Daubach presented several alternatives to solve the identified problems in the Fire Department buildings. We need two bathrooms and two showers in the fire bay area. That way, the community center would have two dedicated bathrooms for use by the public. The double-wide trailer that was recently moved onto the Fire Department property is 24 x 40. The plan is to put the fire fighters in there. However, there are no restrooms planned there. We would have to get port-a-potties back there. If we don't, then the fire fighters will have to walk all around the building, unlock the community center before they can use the restroom. An alternative would be to put the fire fighters into the existing community center meeting room -- which has direct access to the restrooms and kitchen. And to move the community center meeting room into the trailer. Another alternative, is to go up one story and make another floor above the existing community center. Or move the community center to the trailer, and use the existing community center area as a training room for the fire fighters. The second arch in the entrance foyer to the building will have a counter with a glassed-off security area similar to what the Border Patrol offices have. The Fire Department office would be behind this counter. Yet another alternative is to build onto the large space behind the community center room. Make it into bedrooms and add restrooms. Blackburn septic was contacted over a month ago to find out where the septic and leach lines are. He has had no luck so far from the County. Fire

Board Chair, Judy Cochran, asked if there have to be separate bathrooms for male and female fire fighters. Planner Lenz responded that Chief Francois indicates that the usual standard is to have a unisex bathroom that has a sign on the door indicating the user. Cochran also mentioned the need for separate sleeping quarters for male/female. Daubach has allowed for separate bedrooms on her drawings of the fire station quarters. She showed pictures of current problem areas such as: mold on walls, ceilings falling in, and stairs falling in. The fire fighters have indicated that they need a training tower. A letter was sent to the maker of training towers sharing our need with no funds. The cost is \$275,000. They said they write grants for this equipment and then fire departments get them for free. Since we have started networking out to the community, we have received a positive response with the donation of lockers, flags etc. Part of the Fire Department is the community sign across the street which has seen better days. We have designed a new sign that will be a western theme. The entry door to the community center is falling apart. It has been repaired so many times that the locks have nothing to attach to. We are waiting for an estimate from Michael Angelo in Descanso who has taken the measurements for a wood and glass door. We are looking at the 18-acres on Ribbonwood for a County park. The only park area in Boulevard now is the area behind the Fire Department where a jungle gym is located. We are getting donations for cement picnic tables that will be made for free by the prison in Ocotillo. Planner Stuart asked what happened with the proposed new fire station that was presented by DPLU. Chair Tisdale said that we never heard from them again, however, the rumor is that it is not going to happen. Planner Lenz was able to obtain a copy of the blueprints for that proposed new fire station and they would be presented to Supervisor Jacob at the July 16th meeting. We have also met with the Department of Transportation because the current lease with the County for the Fire Department property does not allow for carpool parking. They are interested in having a Park and Ride lot in the 18-acre proposed community park. Other interested parties in the proposed 18-acre park are horse people and the annual cycle event sponsored by UCSD. Planner Lenz said that Nick Martinez of County Park and Recreation was asked what monies from PLDO have been given to Boulevard in the past 5-years. The response was that various communities in Mt. Empire has received PLDO monies; however, Boulevard has received nothing in the past 5 years.

5. PRESENTATION FROM THE FLOOR ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: A) Planner Lenz said that since the local dump stations had been closed, she recently went to the Santee Landfill where she found out that you have to purchase a hard hat in order to drive in and dump your trash. She suggested that if you already have a hard hat, that you remember to take it with you. B) Planner Noland said that he had sent a letter to the County and received a response from Supervisor Jacob saying that Republic Services aka Allied Wastes has discontinued their public waste sites in Mt. Empire and that we should contact their General Manager, Neil Mohr to see if something can be done. C) Lenz also announced that the VFW in Alpine heard that the Boulevard Fire Station has had no flag on their flagpole for over 3 years. They have graciously offered to give us one and would like to present it in a ceremony this Saturday, at 10 a.m. The Fire Board chair has been invited to the ceremony. D) There is now a new Boulevard website that is being hosted by community member Diane Ang. It is: www.wherethehellisboulevard.com. Ang also donated a new American flag to be used for meetings in the community center. E) A skateboard area is being planned in Jacumba.

6. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM. Minutes submitted by Cheryl Lenz, Secretary.

For more information, contact Donna Tisdale, Chair, 619-766-4170, donnatisdale@hughes.net, P. O. Box 1272, Boulevard, CA 91905.